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Letter dated 20 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

With reference to your note no. S/AC.44/2005/DDA/OC.71 dated 19 December 2005 containing, among other things, your distinguished Committee's request that the relevant parties in Oman review and verify prior to publication the matrix summarizing information provided in Oman's National Report on implementation of the provisions of the above-mentioned resolution, we would like to inform you of the following:

I. Oman's comments on the matrix

We would appreciate the insertion of the additional information provided in middle column of the table below:

1. General statement on non-possession of WMD	Oman has no nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.
2. General statement on commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation	Oman is committed to the goals of nuclear non-proliferation.
3. General statement on non-provision of WMD and related materials to non-State actors	Oman has no experience in the area of weapons of mass destruction, and consequently does not provide any support in this area to either States or non-State actors.
4. Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)	Ratification by Royal Decree No. 17/92
5. Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)	Accession by Royal Decree No. 122/94 of 10 December 1994

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6. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)	Accession by Royal Decree No. 91/96 of 22 October 1996
7. Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)	Ratification by Royal Decree No. 43/2003
8. Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) Accession on 11 June 2003	Accession on 11 June 2003

II. Questions on pages 3-7 of the matrix

With regard to national legislation regulating the various activities related to biological weapons, in the absence of a national law regulating these activities, we rely on relevant international conventions that have been acceded to by the Sultanate and have the force of domestic law, in implementation of article 76 of the Basic Law of the State issued by Royal Decree No. 101/97. On the level of national regulations and measures and the agencies concerned with the country's border crossings, the Sultanate has been acting recently to supply these border crossings with advanced new customs inspections equipment that will contribute to preventing the smuggling and transit of biological weapons through the Sultanate's territory. (The same answer applies to the questions about chemical and nuclear weapons.)

III. Oman's technical assistance needs

The competent authorities in Oman will make an evaluation of technical assistance needs to be supplied by the United Nations and specialized counter-terrorism agencies and will inform the Committee of those needs at the appropriate time.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Fuad Mubarak **Al-Hinai**
Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations